

ABSTRACT

A shredded tobacco feeding apparatus includes an optical sensor (40) for detecting stagnation of shreds in a secondary separator (20). The optical sensor (40) senses the interior of the secondary separator (20) in the width direction thereof, by transmitting and receiving detection light propagated through a stagnation-prone region of the secondary separator which is lower in level than an air locker (18). If the detection light is blocked by stagnant shreds, a controller (58) detects the stagnation based on a detection signal from the optical sensor and operates an alarm device (60). Also, the controller (58) actuates an air vibrator (62) to remove the stagnation of shreds.